



CAERPHILLY LOCAL SERVICE BOARD

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE INNOVATION CENTRE,
TREDOMEN ON FRIDAY 30TH JULY 2010 AT 2.00PM**

PRESENT:

Councillor L. Whittle - CCBC
Stuart Rosser - CCBC
Mike Bridgman - GAVO
Rory O'Sullivan - WAG
Sian Martin - Aneurin Bevan Health Board
Chief Superintendent Paul Symes - Gwent Police

Together with:

Colin Jones - CCBC
Alison Palmer - GAVO
Dorothy Phillips - CCBC

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Chief Constable Mick Giannasi and Superintendent Jon Burley - Gwent Police.

WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed and thanked Dr Andrew Goodall (Chief Executive) and David Jenkins (Chairman) of the Aneurin Bevan Health Board for attending the meeting.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th May 2010 were agreed.

2. MENTAL HEALTH WORK ON A GWENT WIDE BASIS

Albert Heaney (Director of Social Services and Karen Powell (Service Manager – Community Mental Health Team) were attending the meeting for this item.

At a previous meeting concern had been expressed regarding the approach by the Aneurin Bevan Health Board to take forward an 'All Gwent' approach to mental health services.

The Local Service Board had chosen Promoting Positive Mental Health as one of their Local Delivery Agreements and there was concern that local work would not continue at the present rate if an All Gwent approach was taken.

It was reported that the council had always had a good understanding and relationship with the former local health board and it was hoped that this would continue.

An invitation to the Chief Executive and Chairman had been extended by the Board to attend the meeting in order to gain an understanding and discuss the decision taken.

Dr Goodall assured members that an important part of the health transitional arrangements was to ensure a commitment on certain legacy issues and prevent slowing down of progress. Following recent pan-Gwent discussions and consultations it had been agreed, as part of the new approach to mental health services, that Caerphilly would have a Crisis Intervention Team. This would be established in late October and should result in a better service model for Caerphilly.

Dr Goodall noted that, as with the Gwent Frailty programme, whilst it was a Gwent-wide programme there were different practice models being used across the area. It was expected that the locality manager would be able to pick up areas of work in Caerphilly that would be able to move forward faster.

The Director of Social Services responded that he was disappointed that a great deal of work had been completed on this project and that there may be a pause in progress. He did however consider that the Crisis Intervention Team would be crucial, and that there was still an opportunity to move forward quicker locally on the integration of some services.

MB expressed concern regarding the varying support for voluntary organisations working with mental health services and the possible lack of future funding. He reported that there is presently only one part time officer working for 9½ hours a week throughout the county borough.

Dr Goodall reported that there will always be variability of services throughout Gwent due to geographical and legacy reasons but that the service will always be reliant on local organisations.

Mr Jenkins (Chair, Aneurin Bevan Health Board) reported that he was aware that parts of Gwent had not done as well as others in the allocation of WCVA funding for mental health work but it would in future be allocated on a population basis and administered by the ABLHB. He agreed they would need to work with GAVO to maximise its use.

3. RESOURCE CENTRE FOR THE NORTH – UPDATE

Claire Harding was attending the meeting for this item.

A report on the current situation had been circulated to members and Claire outlined the background to the project and explained that all partners had been working for a considerable time with the public to develop a model relevant to their needs. The report outlined the model, the strategic direction and the current position.

A number of issues needed however to be brought to the attention of the Board:-

- Timescale – the timescale to open the facility at the same time as Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr is unlikely to be achieved for the reasons outlined in the report this will impact on the ability to move forward with plans for Redwood Hospital.
- An Affordability Gap - An affordability strategy was developed during 2008 but in light of

existing financial positions of the partner organisations is currently being reviewed. It has been agreed that resources be sought from within borough based budgets as the project will meet many of the objectives of the Wanless review. This approach will be challenging and may result in the withdrawal or reduction of some partnership schemes. A Finance Group will be meeting imminently to revalidate the extent of the affordability gap.

- Relationships with the Third Party Developer – Primary Asset have at present ceased any further work which will incur costs but remain committed to the scheme.
- Relationships with the Community – the community and elected members will continue to be informed of developments and informed when a way forward is determined. A public meeting will be held in October to update the community.
- Relationship with Partners – the challenge to the partnerships within the county borough is predominately in relation to the need to identify funding within the borough.

MB expressed concern on the possible withdrawal of Wanless funding for existing schemes as funding is currently provided to the Voluntary Sector through a Wanless small grant scheme. He expressed concern regarding the current reduction in funding from this source and Albert Heaney/Claire Harding indicated that they would investigate this matter.

Dr Goodall emphasised that this was a legacy project and a commitment and that decisions need to be made quickly to give a reassurance and SM reported that it is important that the project should not come to a halt. He confirmed continued commitment from within ABHB to the project and service model contained therein.

Reservations were expressed however on the suggestion of allocating Wanless funding for part of the funding gap and it was agreed that discussions would be held with all parties concerned.

It was agreed that there is a commitment to the project and that all opportunities to bridge any funding gap must be considered. Other factors also need to be considered:-

- Whether costs could be driven down;
- If there is any element of reshaping that could be considered?
- Look to see what impact will happen if funding is taken from elsewhere.

The importance of keeping channels of communication open was essential.

4. CAERPHILLY LOCAL SERVICE BOARD - THE FUTURE

CJ gave a presentation and invited comments on the future direction and focus of the Local Service Board. A number of topics were discussed and comments made:-

Local Leadership Team Connecting Public Service

Is 'local' the county borough only ?

It was suggested that Caerphilly could not operate in isolation as a number of organisations represented on the Board now cover the Gwent wide area. Boundaries are an artificial concept. Organisations must work together across boundaries for service provision.

Gwent wide services are needed but there is a need also to concentrate on local services – there must be room for both to complement each other.

There is a need to retain working on a local level and the Aneurin Bevan Heath Board have adopted a locality model in order to continue the good local relationships formed previously but recognising that there is always an opportunity for broader work.

PS reported that there is a challenge in separating policing locally and a need to know what to contribute to the Board on a local basis.

In respect of the expectations of WAG and how do we get value, RO'S responded that a shifting model will depend on the local agenda, collaboration and strategic needs (local or regional) but ultimately funding will drive it. It will be about achieving better value for public services in an uncertain financial climate. The LSB's have an important role in members of agencies collaborating together.

The purpose, agenda, and role of the Board was discussed. SR noted that there was an opportunity for the LSB to focus on collaborative working locally to reduce duplication, increase efficiency and savings, and it was agreed there would also be a need to look at Gwent-wide collaboration.

Leading on the Community Strategy

The LSB has successfully lead and raised the profile of the Community Strategy. The Partnerships are in the main working well but it is important to define the role of the Partnerships and for them not to work in isolation. It was noted that informal meetings had been held between the Chairs of 3 of the Statutory Partnerships to discuss and progress Partnership Development.

CJ noted that the partnerships still had a large number of objectives and it was agreed that there was a role for the LSB in driving the process to focus work on a smaller core set of priorities for everyone to work towards. It was agreed that the Chairs/Vice-Chairs of all the Community Strategy Partnerships be brought together in the Autumn to discuss these issues and engage them in debate. In view of the large number of council officers in these posts it may be prudent to balance this meeting with key outside representatives invited.

Championing Citizen needs

SR gave the background to two specific LSB projects that focussed on engagement with citizens; the Citizen Engagement and Consultation project which was chaired by Colin Palfrey and the Infobase public information system, both of which were progressing. He noted that a deliberate decision had been made originally that the LSB would not look to have a public face, but would concentrate on managing the internal processes. The question whether it should now be more visible to the public or continue in its role as a leadership group was discussed.

It was suggested that the Board did not need a high profile public identity as long as a clear message about its purpose could be promoted. It was suggested that the Board could move meeting locations around partners to be more visible to officers and the public. It was also felt that the meeting with Chairs would help clarify the role.

Connecting the Local Level with Regional/National Needs

It will be inevitable that it will happen – there are however various mechanisms involved and therefore no need to do any specific around it.

Problem Solving

It may be considered that a strength of the Board is that very few problems have been presented to them to date. It is hoped that they have been resolved through good working relationships before hand. MB noted the long history of good working relationships and referred to other mechanisms used to discuss concerns – the voluntary sector submit

questions to the Voluntary Sector Sub Committee where officers attend and respond. It was felt that the changing financial climate could bring forward more challenging problems in the future. It was noted that a potential role for the LSB would be looking at ways of collaborative working brought about by the Outcome Agreements that local authorities were entering into with WAG that would require considerable joint working to achieve.

Local Delivery Agreements

Previously mentioned, there were a number of LDA projects which were progressing well.

5. CAERPHILLY LSB UPDATE TO THE WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT

A draft report for submission to the Welsh Assembly Government, which had been circulated to members of the Board was noted.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Caerphilly LSB had been scheduled for Tuesday 21st September at 9.30am and the following items will be included in the agenda:

- Efficiency and Innovation Programme;
- Gwent Frailty Programme.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 3.55pm